<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and listings.

1. (Currently Amended) A print control apparatus for performing user authentication processing in print processing, comprising:

a job combination unit for combining a plurality of print jobs into a single combined print job;

a request unit for issuing a request, including an input user ID, to an authentication server for obtaining permission to print the single combined print job combined by said job combination unit; and

a transmission control unit in which a printer driver controls a ~~transmission~~ process so that, when permission is obtained from the authentication server, print data based upon the single combined print job is <u>generated and</u> transmitted to a printer, but when permission is not obtained from the authentication server (i) the print data based upon the single combined print job is not <u>generated</u> ~~transmitted to the printer~~ and (ii) an indication that permission was not obtained from the authentication server is transmitted to a job accounting application <u>by the printer driver</u>.

2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a counting unit for counting a print amount including a number of prints to be printed by the combined print job, and transmitting information about the counted print amount to a counting server.

3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the authentication server and the print control apparatus are

connected via a communication network, and

the communication network is connected to a plurality of printers.

4.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the

authentication server is included in the printer.

5.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the print

control apparatus includes a host computer.

6.   (Currently Amended) A print control method of performing user

authentication processing in print processing, comprising:

a job combination step of combining a plurality of print jobs into a single

combined print job;

an authentication request step of issuing an authentication request, including

an input user ID, to an authentication server for obtaining permission to print the single print job combined in

the job combination step; and

a transmission control step in which a printer driver controls a ~~transmission~~

process so that, when permission is obtained from the authentication server, print data based upon the single

combined print job is <u>generated and</u> transmitted to a printer, but when permission is not obtained from the

authentication server (i) the print data based upon the single combined print job is not <u>generated</u> ~~transmitted~~

~~to the printer~~ and (ii) an indication that permission was not obtained from the authentication server is

transmitted to a job accounting application <u>by the printer driver</u>.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6, further comprising a counting step of counting a print amount including a number of prints to be printed by the combined print job, and transmitting information about the counted print amount to a counting server.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein the authentication server is included in the printer.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a computer program for performing user authentication processing in print processing, including:

a code of a job combination step of combining a plurality of print jobs into a single combined print job;

a code of an authentication request step of issuing an authentication request, including an input user ID, to an authentication server for obtaining permission to print the single combined print job combined in the job combination step; and

a code of a transmission control step in which a printer driver controls a ~~transmission~~ process so that, when permission is obtained from the authentication server, print data based upon the single combined print job is <u>generated and</u> transmitted to a printer, but when permission is not obtained from the authentication server (i) the print data based upon the single combined print job is not <u>generated</u> ~~transmitted to the printer~~ and (ii) an indication that permission was not obtained from the authentication server is transmitted to a job accounting application <u>by the printer driver</u>.

10.   (Previously Presented) The medium according to claim 9, further comprising a code of a counting step of counting a print amount including a number of prints to be printed by the combined print job, and transmitting information about the counted print amount to a counting server.

11.   (Previously Presented) The medium according to claim 9, wherein the authentication server is included in the printer.

12.   (Currently Amended) A computer program stored on a computer-readable medium which, when executed, performs a method for performing user authentication processing in print processing, the program comprising:

a code of an job combination step of combining a plurality of print jobs into a single combined print job;

a code of an authentication request step of issuing an authentication request, including an input user ID, to an authentication server for obtaining permission to print the single print job combined in the job combination step; and

a code of a transmission control step in which a printer driver controls a ~~transmission~~ process so that, when permission is obtained from the authentication server, print data based upon the single combined print job is <u>generated and</u> transmitted to a printer, but when permission is not obtained from the authentication server (i) the print data based upon the single combined print job is not <u>generated</u> ~~transmitted to the printer~~ and (ii) an indication that permission was not obtained from the authentication server is transmitted to a job accounting application <u>by the printer driver</u>.

13.   (Currently Amended) A print system for performing user authentication processing in print processing, comprising:

a print control apparatus having a job combination unit for combining a plurality of print jobs into a single combined print job, an authentication request unit for issuing an authentication request, including an input user ID, to an authentication server for obtaining permission to print the single combined print job combined by the job combination unit, and a transmission control unit in which a printer driver controls a ~~transmission~~ process so that, when permission is obtained from the authentication server, print data based upon the single combined print job is generated and transmitted to a printer, but when permission is not obtained from the authentication server (i) the print data based upon the single combined print job is not generated ~~transmitted to the printer~~ and (ii) an indication that permission was not obtained from the authentication server is transmitted to a job accounting application by the printer driver,[[;]] and

wherein the authentication server is connected to said print control apparatus.

14.   (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 13, further comprising a counting server connected to said print control apparatus, and said print control apparatus counts a print amount including a number of prints to be printed by the combined print job, and transmits information about the counted print amount to the counting server.

15.   (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 13, wherein said authentication server is included in one of printers connected to said print control apparatus.

16.- 44.   (Canceled)

45.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein the printer driver controls the transmission process so as to generate a print command using the combined print job held in a storage unit and transmits the print command to the printer.

46.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein,
in said transmission control step, the printer driver controls the transmission process so as to generate a print command using the combined print job held in a storage unit and transmits the print command to the printer.